

VILLANOVA, PA—On Saturday, April 18, 2009, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) addressed 250 alumni, faculty, supporters, and guests of the Villanova University College of Nursing at the 20th Annual Alumni Awards Ceremony. The event took place in the University's brand new Driscoll Hall, which was dedicated at the beginning of the term. Congressman Sestak presented a citation for the College for its contribution to nursing to the Dean of the College of Nursing, Dr. M. Louise Fitzpatrick.

"I am pleased to recognize the Villanova University College of Nursing as a leading educational institution, committed to providing students with the technical, personal, and real world skills to succeed," the Congressman said. "I join all of the members of the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania in congratulating the Villanova College of Nursing for its outstanding accomplishments to date—we look forward to the college's continued success."

Distinguished guests included Villanova University President Rev. Peter Donohue, OSA , and Rear Admiral Christine Bruzek-Kohler, '74 BSN, Director of the Navy Nurse Corps and Chief of Staff of the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Established in 1953, there are over 6000 alumni from the College's BSN, MSN and PhD programs. They have served thousands more nurses through their continuing education offerings. Among their alumni are health care executives, researchers, nurses in all aspects of clinical practice, top-ranking military nursing personnel, university professors, college presidents and deans based at leading health care and education institutions around the country and the world.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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